

10/627,426

- 24 -

What is Claimed is:

② of 2

1. An interactive program guide system including user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 means for receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

means for selecting a program for recording from the interactive television program
10 guide;

means for determining whether the selected program is copy protected; and

means for displaying a message informing a user that the selected program may not be recorded
15 upon determining that the selected program is copy protected.

2. A method for using an interactive program guide system using user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television,

5 comprising:

receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

selecting a program for recording from
10 the interactive television program guide;

determining whether the selected program is copy protected; and

displaying a message informing a user
that the selected program may not be recorded upon
15 determining that the selected program is copy
protected.

3. An interactive program guide system
including user equipment with which an interactive
television program guide is provided and which includes
a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 communications circuitry configured to
receive television program guide information for use in
the interactive television program guide;

display circuitry configured to display
the interactive television program guide; and

10 control circuitry configured to (1)
provide a user with an opportunity to select a program
for recording from the interactive television program
guide, (2) determine whether the selected program is
copy protected, and (3) direct the display circuitry to
15 display a message informing the user that the selected
program may not be recorded upon determining that the
selected program is copy protected.

4. A machine-readable medium for
implementing an interactive television program guide
comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:

5 receiving television program guide
information for use in the interactive television
program guide;

providing a user with an opportunity to
select a program for recording from the interactive
10 television program guide;

determining whether the selected program
is copy protected; and

displaying a message informing the user
that the selected program may not be recorded upon
15 determining that the selected program is copy
protected.

5. An interactive program guide system
including user equipment with which an interactive
television program guide is provided and which includes
a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 means for receiving television program
guide information for use in the interactive television
program guide;

means for displaying the interactive
television program guide;

10 means for selecting a program for
recording or for viewing from the interactive program
guide;

means for receiving the selected program
with copy protection;

15 means for offering the selected program
for purchase at a price for the program without copy
protection when the program is selected for recording;

means for (a) removing the copy
protection from the selected program, (b) providing the
20 selected program without copy protection, and (c)
directing the video recorder to record the selected
program when the program is purchased at the price for
the program without copy protection;

25 means for offering the selected program
for purchase at a price for the program with copy
protection when the program is selected for viewing;
and

30 means for providing the selected program
with copy protection when the program is purchased at
the price for the program with copy protection.

6. The interactive program guide system
defined in claim 5 wherein the price for the program
without copy protection is more than the price for the
program with copy protection.

7. A method for using an interactive
program guide system using user equipment with which an
interactive television program guide is provided and
which includes a video recorder and a television,
5 comprising:

 receiving television program guide
information for use in the interactive television
program guide;

10 displaying the interactive television
program guide;

 selecting a program for recording or for
viewing from the interactive television program guide;

 receiving the selected program with copy
protection;

15 offering the selected program for
purchase at a price for the program without copy
protection when the program is selected for recording;

removing the copy protection from the selected program, providing the selected program without copy protection, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program without copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program without copy protection;

offering the selected program for purchase at a price for the program with copy protection when the program is selected for viewing; and

providing the selected program with copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program with copy protection.

8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein the price for the program without copy protection is more than the price for the program with copy protection.

9. An interactive program guide system including user equipment with which an interactive television program guide is provided and which includes a video recorder and a television, comprising:

5 communications circuitry configured to receive television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

display circuitry configured to display the interactive television program guide;

10 circuitry configured to remove copy protection from programs; and

control circuitry configured to (1) provide a user with an opportunity to select a program for recording or for viewing from the interactive television program guide, (2) direct the display circuitry to display a message offering the user the selected program for purchase at a price for the program without copy protection when the program is selected for recording, (3) direct the tuner circuitry to tune to the selected program with copy protection, (4) direct the circuitry to remove the copy protection from the selected program and provide the selected program without copy protection and a video recorder to record the selected program without copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program without copy protection, (5) direct the display circuitry to display a message offering the user the selected program for purchase at a price for the program with copy protection when the program is selected for viewing, and (6) direct the tuner circuitry to provide the selected program with copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program with copy protection.

10. The interactive program guide system defined in claim 9 wherein the price for the program without copy protection is more than the price for the program with copy protection.

11. A machine-readable medium for implementing an interactive television program guide comprising machine program logic recorded thereon for:
receiving television program guide information for use in the interactive television program guide;

providing an opportunity for a user to select a program for recording or for viewing from the interactive television program guide;

10 receiving the selected program with copy protection;

offering the selected program for purchase at a price for the program without copy protection when the program is selected for recording;

15 removing the copy protection from the selected program, providing the selected program without copy protection, and directing the video recorder to record the selected program without copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program without copy protection;

20 offering the selected program for purchase at a price for the program with copy protection when the program is selected for viewing; and

25 providing the selected program with copy protection when the program is purchased at the price for the program with copy protection.

12. The machine-readable medium defined in claim 11 further having machine program logic recorded thereon for offering the program wherein the price for the program without copy protection is more than the
5 price for the program with copy protection.